

Message Text

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47

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

SAM-01 /108 W

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P R 011811Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9434

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USDEL MTN GENEVA

AMCONSUL BREMEN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ECON, US, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: EC TROPICAL PRODUCTS PROPOSAL --TOBACCO GSP

REF: STATE 48126

1. ECON COUNSELOR CONVEYED US OBJECTIONS TO COMMISSION'S GSP OFFER ON TOBACCO TO DEPT OF TRADE UNDER SECRETARY SIDNEY ABRAMSON, WHO WILL BE PART OF UK WE ALSO UNDERLINED THAT MFN REDUCTIONS WOULD BE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GREAT ADVANTAGE TO UK SINCE HALF OF ITS IMPORTS ARE

FROM NON-GSP SUPPLIERS.

2. ON THE QUESTION OF AN EC COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATE TOBACCO IN MTN, ABRAMSON RESPONDED THAT UK INTERESTS ON THIS ISSUE ARE THE SAME AS THOSE OF THE US. HOWEVER, HE SAID PROBLEM WAS RATHER ONE OF KEEPING THE DOOR OPEN TO FURTHER NEGOTIATION IN GENEVA, AND BEST THAT COULD BE HOPED FOR IN BRUSSELS WAS AVOID DECISION THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER TOBACCO NEGOTIATIONS IN MTN. ABRAMSON SAID US SUGGESTION LIMITING GSP CONCESSION TO 50,000 MT FOR BOTH CATEGORIES IS DIFFICULT FOR UK BECAUSE OF (A) THE GENERAL NEED TO MAKE A "GOOD OFFER" TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND (B) THE SPECIAL PROBLEM OF PROTECTING INTERESTS OF INDIA, WHICH WOULD, IF US SUGGESTION ADOPTED, HAVE TO SHARE THE (SOMEWHAT LARGER) GSP QUOTA WITH OTHER SUPPLIERS. ABRAMSON CONCLUDED WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THE ITALIANS MIGHT BLOCK ANY DECISION, THUS WORKING TO THE SHORT TERM ADVANTAGE OF THE US.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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